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MONTHLY LETTER OF THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY. U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

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April, 1915.

CARNEGIE SCHOLARS.

Mr. Carrington B. Williams, Carnegie scholar, took a trip to the West Indies in March and April and returned to Washington about April 8 with a very large collection of Thysanoptera made on the trip. On his return he worked night and day with Mr. J. D. Hood, of the U. S. Biological Survey, describing the new species for a joint paper soon to be published. He visited Barbados, Trinidad, and Porto Rico and saw some tropical economic entomology. He sailed for England on April 17.

Mr. F. W. Dry, also a Carnegie scholar, is on a trip with Prof. Webster, visiting the eastern field stations of the section of Cereal and Forage Crop Insects. [L. O. Howard.]

PUBLICATIONS OFFERED TO ENTOMOLOGISTS BY DR. FELT.

Dr. E. Porter Felt, State Museum, Albany, N. Y., has written Dr. Howard, under date of April 8, stating that owing to a lack of storage space he wishes to dispose of a limited number of bulletins on hand among the entomological workers of this bureau. The available numbers are bulletins 20, 24, 36, 37, 46, 47, 68, 72, 136, 141, 147, 155, 156, and 165.

Owing to limited funds, those who desire these publications must defray the cost of carriage. [L. O. H.]

AN INDEX TO ILLUSTRATIONS INCLUDED IN ALL PUBLICATIONS ON ENTOMOLOGY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

It is not generally known that the editorial section maintains an up-to-date card index to the illustrations that are included in publications on entomology, embodying the U. S. Entomological Commission, the late Division of Entomology, the Bureau of Entomology, and the later entomological papers of the Department of Agriculture. This index is open to members of the bureau on their visits to Washington at any time.

A general card index of entomological publications having their inception in the above offices is in the course of preparation, and that part of it which pertains to the entomological bulletins of the Departmental series is now available for consultation, it being complete for all the entomological bulletins of this series thus far issued. [B. A. R.]

ERRATA.

In the January-February News Letter No. 10 the reference to Farmers' Bulletin No. 650 should have read "The San Jose Scale" instead of "San Juan Scale."

In the March News Letter No. 11 the reference to report No. 101 of the Secretary's office should have read "The Woolly Apple Aphis" by A. C. Baker, who is the author, and not by A. L. Quaintance and A. C. Baker.

NOTES ON PREPARATION OF ACCOUNTS.

Paragraph 90 (a to s), Fiscal Regulations, enumerates the different expenditures to be supported by subvouchers. Pages 50 to 52 of the Fiscal Regulations set forth the correct forms in which these vouchers must be made.

Probably the two most common uses of the subvoucher are for the support of special conveyances and hotel bills. It will be noted that a subvoucher in support of livery in excess of \$1 (see par. 90 (g), Fiscal Regulations) must describe the service furnished and points

visited, and also give the time employed or distance traveled and show rate charged therefor. If a special rate is provided for the service or trip, it should be so stated. A subvoucher in support of hotel bills, paragraph 90 (*h* and *j*) provides, must state the full period of service and the rate per day, week, or month. Often subvouchers are submitted for such claims wherein the day and hour of the beginning and ending of period are shown instead of the first and last item. (See p. 51 of the Fiscal Regulations.) Within the contemplation of the regulations governing subsistence a day is divided into four equal parts, viz, breakfast, dinner, supper, and lodging. (See p. 52, Fiscal Regulations, which shows proper form of indicating price of each item, when period covered does not show uniform price of meals.)

Paragraph 90 (*p*) of the Fiscal Regulations should receive the further attention of many of the field agents. This paragraph requires that the purchase of supplies in excess of \$1.50 at one point on any one day must be supported by subvoucher or else it must be shown that different purchases making the total were made from different dealers.

Storage charges (see par. 90 (*o*), Fiscal Regulations) and excess baggage (see par. 90 (*s*), Fiscal Regulations) often escape the notice of field men.

All subvouchers must be correctly signed. The person receiving payment must show his full name and title. Initials are not sufficient to identify the payee. In case the payee can not write, he should make his mark in the presence of a witness, who signs his full name and address.

The chief of the Bureau of Entomology is in receipt of a letter, dated April 24, from the disbursing officer of this department, wherein he advises that the Auditor for the State and Other Departments has agreed informally to pass accounts covering the purchase of drinking water for office purposes, incurred *prior to May 1, 1915*. Such charges thereafter will be considered *improper charges*.

Memorandum No. 128, dated March 31, 1915, amends the fiscal regulations. Men in the field should especially note the provisions (see paragraph 4 [*c*] and paragraph 28) which forbid the purchase of cameras and lenses. Such must not be purchased now, unless specifically authorized by the Secretary. [O. F. Busby.]

LIBRARY.

The librarian reminds all members of the bureau of the desirability of the prompt use and return of books borrowed from the bureau library or from other governmental libraries in Washington. This is necessary both for the convenience of our own staff and of others wishing to consult our library. If all books not personal property are kept together in one place in each office where they are readily accessible in case of urgent need by others, the annoyance of "lost books" will be greatly reduced.

A goodly number of author's separates have been added to the library during the past few months to the donors of which the library extends its thanks. Separates from nonentomological journals and from publications not emanating from the Department of Agriculture are especially desired. [M. C.]

NEW BOOKS.

Bernard, L. Technique des traitements contre les insectes de la vigne. Paris, 1914. 364 p. illus. 8^{mo}.
 Craig, C. F. The prophylaxis of malaria with special reference to the military service. 1914. (U. S. War Dept. Medical Dept. Bul. no. 6. August. 115 p. 12 pl.)
 Cragg, F. W. Studies on the mouth parts and sucking apparatus in the blood-sucking Diptera. Calcutta, 1912-1913. 4 pts. illus. plates. (Scientific memoirs by officers of the medical and sanitary departments of the government of India. new series no. 54, 58, 59, 60.)
 Herrick, G. W. Insects of economic importance; outline of lectures in economic entomology. Ithaca, N. Y., Carpenter & Co., 1915. 138 p.
 Journal of parasitology vol. 1, no. 1-2, Sept. and Dec. 1914. Henry B. Ward, Urbana, Ill., managing editor. [Quarterly, devoted to medical zoology.]
 Woodworth, C. W. Guide to California insects. Berkeley, 1913. 360 p. illus.

INSECTICIDE WORK IN THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY.

The bureau work with insecticides has, during recent years, become so large and varied that it has appeared desirable to systematize this class as much as possible. The whole subject was referred to the Bureau Project Committee, and its report was approved by Dr. Howard,

effective April 10, 1915. The main features of the report are indicated in the following paragraphs:

The establishment of the Insecticide and Fungicide Board renders it more than ever necessary that recommendations from bureau men concerning insecticides, their effects on insects, dilutions, etc., should be made with much conservatism. As is well known, the Insecticide Board is endeavoring to correct efficacy claims on labels of proprietary insecticides in strict accordance with well-determined facts.

Greater adherence is desirable to the bureau policy of conservatism in giving information to correspondents, insecticide manufacturers, and others, relative to proprietary preparations. Inadvertent indorsements of such articles have, on several occasions, been used for advertising purposes. In general the name of a proprietary preparation should never be used in correspondence or in publications. In furnishing correspondents with names of firms manufacturing insecticidal preparations, such as arsenate of lead, lime-sulphur solution, etc., at least three firms should be cited.

It is recognized that there is a distinct field for consecutive, thoroughgoing investigations of the general subject of insecticides. This work may best be accomplished if assigned to some one branch in the bureau, and the following division of work has been ordered:

To the branch of Deciduous Fruit Insect Investigations has been assigned the general subject of insecticide investigations in the bureau. This branch shall also handle all correspondence relating to proprietary insecticides, or substances proposed as insecticides, which deals with requests for information not directly relating to the work coming within the domain of the respective branches. This office will also maintain as complete and up-to-date a bibliography of insecticides as is possible, and will keep a file of analyses of insecticides of all classes, and will endeavor, in all ways, to maintain as extensive a fund of information on the whole subject of insecticides as is possible. The collection of such information in one office will be of distinct advantage to the bureau in obviating, to a considerable extent, duplication in records, analyses, etc., since these records will be available for other offices in the bureau as needed. The branch of Deciduous Fruit Insect Investigations will soon be equipped with a laboratory for insecticide studies, and will inaugurate several lines of investigation in the general field, such as synthetic insecticides, insecticidal constituents of plants, etc.

The different branches will continue, as heretofore, investigations of insecticides as is found necessary in connection with the work of their respective fields. It is advised that when it is found necessary to have analyses made of insecticides in connection with work in the various branches that requests for such analyses be made through the office of Deciduous Fruit Insect Investigations, to be transmitted by that office to the Bureau of Chemistry. This will insure that office in keeping its file of analyses up to date.

Before undertaking detailed and special investigations of insecticides which have been found necessary in connection with their work, the respective branch chiefs shall submit to the Project Committee of the bureau an outline of the investigations proposed. Such action will tend to avoid duplication of work; to avoid ill-advised investigations, and may result in suggestions of value in connection with the execution of the investigation itself.

In order to secure conservatism and uniformity in regard to insecticidal recommendations, manuscripts containing such recommendations should be submitted to the Project Committee for recommendation to the chief of the bureau before transmittal of manuscripts to the Division of Publications. [L. O. H.]

BEE CULTURE.

Dr. E. F. PHILLIPS, *In Charge.*

E. F. Phillips and George S. Demuth will attend the beekeepers' conference to be held in Chattanooga, Tenn., April 27-29, in conjunction with the Southern Conference for Education and Industry, April 27-30. Dr. Phillips is chairman of this conference.

George S. Demuth will go to Winchester, Va., early in May to continue investigations in conjunction with the Deciduous Fruit Insect Investigations on the effects on bees of spraying fruit trees. N. E. McIndoo went to Roswell, N. Mex., early in April on the same line of work and will also go to Colorado in May.

SOUTHERN FIELD CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS.

W. D. HUNTER, *In Charge.*

G. A. Runner spent several days during the month in the laboratories of the General Electric Co., Schenectady, N. Y., conducting experiments in the destruction of the cigarette beetle (*Chalcodermus aeneus*).

August Busck will leave Washington about the first of May to spend six months in the Hawaiian Islands in the study of the *Gelechia gossypiella*. Special conditions regarding the habits of this species are required in connection with the proposed action to prevent the establishment of the species in the United States.

E. A. McGregor returned to his station at Batesburg, S. C., early in the month.

W. D. Hunter and G. B. Sudworth, of the Horticultural Board, had a conference at Pittsburgh, Pa., on April 14 with the designers of a machine which may be adapted for the fumigation of bales of cotton.

On April 20 a conference was held at the department regarding the proposed action of the Horticultural Board requiring the fumigation of all foreign cotton received in this country to destroy the immature stages of *Gelechia gossypiella*. Representatives of cotton mills from all parts of the country were present.

J. L. Webb left Washington on April 25 for Tallulah, La., where he will be attached to the boll-weevil laboratory.

Messrs. R. W. Wells, M. J. Stanley, and G. H. Cowan have been appointed temporary field assistants in the work against the spotted-fever tick in Montana.

A new project relating to the control of the house fly and other insects in establishments operating under the meat inspection act has been approved by the Secretary. This is a joint investigation in cooperation with the Bureau of Animal Industry, which will pay the traveling expenses involved. The headquarters for the work will be at the Dallas laboratory and F. C. Bishopp will be in direct charge. A conference will be held at Washington early in May at which the detailed plans for the investigation will be discussed.

TRUCK CROP AND STORED PRODUCT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS.

F. H. CHITTENDEN, *In Charge.*

In regard to the first appearance of the pea aphis (*Macrosiphum pisi* Kalt.) and the food plants on which it occurs, Mr. D. E. Fink, under date of April 15, 1915, writes that while investigating the spinach aphis (*Myzus persicæ*) at Portsmouth, Va., he found that about 75 per cent of the aphides on spinach were *Macrosiphum pisi*, and sent quite a lot, both mature and immature. This species was very abundant. About a month earlier Mr. Thomas H. Jones found this species in the vicinity of Baton Rouge, La., in all stages on Canada field pea. Finding the species on spinach in such numbers was somewhat of a surprise, but the writer had recently made the statement that in different localities the species might make its first appearance on other food plants than some which already have been recorded.